

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 02382 311429Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 AID-05 /068 W
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R 311345Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2506

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 2382

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, ET, RO

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION VISITS ROMANIA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1452

1. FOUR MAN ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION, LED BY MAJOR DEMISSIE DERESSA, MEMBER OF PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC), VISITED ROMANIA BEGINNING MARCH 14. THEY WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU ON MARCH 18 FOR WHAT APPEARED FROM PRESS COVERAGE TO HAVE BEEN ROUTINE DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL SUBJECTS. DELEGATION HAD PREVIOUSLY MET WITH RCP SECRETARIES EMIL BOBU (CADRES) AND STEFAN ANDREI (INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS), AS WELL AS WITH MINISTER-STATE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN TRADE BUJOR ALMASAN. DELEGATION ALSO HELD TALKS OF UNSPECIFIED NATURE IN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 02382 311429Z

2. MARCH 4 EARTHQUAKE UNDOUBTEDLY DETRACTED FROM ATTENTION GOR COULD DEVOTE TO A VISIT WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE RECEIVED MORE PUBLICITY, GIVEN CEAUSESCU'S RECENT RETURN FROM AFRICA. AS CONSEQUENCE, ETHIOPIAN DEL RECEIVED VERY LIMITED MEDIA COVERAGE. THEIR DEPARTURE FROM COUNTRY HAS NOT EVEN BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED IN

PRESS, WHICH IS UNUSUAL.

3. ROMANIAN CONTACTS WITH PMAC HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY LIMITED. PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, MIRCEA MALITIA MADE FIRST CONTACT IN JANUARY 1975 AND THERE WAS SIX-MAN PMAC DELEGATION WHICH VISITED ROMANIA IN MARCH 1975. IT RECEIVED MUCH MORE ATTENTION THAN RECENT VISIT AND INCLUDED A COMMUNIQUE, WHICH THIS ONE DID NOT.

4. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO CIVILIANS MENTIONED ABOVE, DELEGATION WAS ALSO MET BY COL. GENERAL VASILE IONEL WHO ACCOMPANIED THEM ON THEIR CALL ON CEAUSESCU. IONEL IS ROMANIA'S CHIEF MILITARY OFFICER INVOLVED IN ARMS PRODUCTION AND SALES, AND HE IS HARDLY EVER ASSIGNED PROTOCOL DUTIES WITH VISITING DELGATIONS UNLESS SUBSTANTIVE TOPICS TO BE COVERED ARE IN HIS AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. CONSEQUENTLY, WE SUSPECT THAT THE SALE OF ROMANIAN SMALL ARMS AND/OR OTHER MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE PMAC WAS AT LEAST DISCUSSED. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS SUSPICION IN OUR CONTACTS WITH A NUMBER OF SOURCES HERE, BUT WE WILL CONTINUE DISCREET INQUIRIES AND WILL REPORT ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED. DATT CONCURS.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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